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August 10, 2009

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D.   
Interim Director

SUBJECT: **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES' INVOLVEMENT IN  
REMOTE AREA MEDICAL EVENT IN INGLEWOOD**

On July 14, 2009, your Board proclaimed the week of August 11-18, 2009 as Remote Area Medical (RAM) Week in recognition of free medical, dental and optical services that will be made available at The Forum in Inglewood during these dates at no cost to participants. You encouraged County departments to participate in the event to the extent doing so is consistent with our mission and budgetary constraints.

Earlier this year, representatives from the Department of Health Services (DHS) began meeting with RAM, a non-profit, 501(c)(3) charitable organization that provides free medical care in various underserved locations throughout the country as well as internationally. In conjunction with the Second Supervisorial District, my staff attended several planning meetings, along with the Emergency Medical Services Agency, the Los Angeles County Fire Department and leadership at Centinela Hospital, the closest facility to the Inglewood Forum for any possible 9-1-1 referrals. The DHS role has primarily been one of facilitation.

RAM expects to treat between 1,000 to 1,200 patients a day on a first come, first served basis. Each patient will receive multiple medical services according to their needs. The main focus of this event will be dental and ophthalmology services, as well as medical examinations and additional medical services such as mammography, patient education, pharmacy and x-ray, etc. No financial screening or selective criteria will apply for the community members who come to this event and all services are provided for free. Medical and non-medical personnel are all volunteers; supplies and equipment are donated or provided by RAM.

The DHS role will include coordination of medical referrals, along with the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County. It is estimated that only 5-8% of all persons seen will require a referral and most will be referred for dental or vision follow-up. If you have any further questions about participation in the RAM event, please contact me or Carol Meyer, Chief Network Officer.

JFS:cm

c: Chief Executive Officer  
Acting County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors